

CLINTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Newark 8

26 SHANLEY AVENUE

New Jersey

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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THE BIG NEWS IN CLINTON HILL is that an area right in the heart of our neighborhood has been chosen as a potential spot for rehabilitation under Section 220 of the FHA program for improvement of neighborhoods. This means that our Federal Government is ready to help us improve our neighborhood. But this is no giveaway program. If it is to work, every one of us—city, lending institutions, property owners in that area directly involved, as well as the rest of us throughout Clinton Hill—must put his shoulder to the wheel.

WHAT IS PROMISED? The FHA will insure mortgages at 5 to 6% interest, up to 90% of valuation on owner-occupied dwellings for purchase or rehabilitation of property, or both. This means that, with the cooperation of banks and other lending agencies, many of which have already promised their help, one will be able to secure mortgage money for improving one's house or buying a new one in this area.

WHAT IS EXPECTED?—and here is where the total concern, cooperation, and hard work of everybody is needed. First: The neighborhood selected for rehabilitation under Section 220 must be fairly close-knit. Second: There must be a reasonably high degree of owner occupancy. Third: The city must be prepared to do its share in providing adequate facilities and services, proper street lighting, schools and recreational areas, as well as a paid co-ordinator. Fourth: The entire community must give its complete cooperation and support to the project.

WHY IS THIS OUR CONCERN?—for two reasons: First, because we are part of Newark, and what concerns any part of our city involves us. Also, it is our concern because the FHA will earmark no area for renewal unless it finds in such an area an active and well organized group of concerned citizens. This program has been assigned to the Associated Community Councils and we of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council are affiliated with this larger organization. This is our job. Its success or failure depends on what we do about it.

ZONING VIOLATIONS

WHAT HAPPENS when Zoning Ordinances are violated? Those of us who saw the ACTION presentation at the Essex House one rainy night last Fall learned that the result is generally blighted neighborhoods. All of us should know that there are many zoning violations within our area right now. The city inspection department is short-handed, and the only way to get appropriate action is to enter a formal complaint.

IF YOU KNOW OF AN INFRACTION of the zoning laws on your street, get in touch with your Neighborhood Council; it has set up a committee to help you bring such matters to the attention of the proper city officials.

MAP OF URBAN RENOVATION AREA (Under FHA Section 220)



PROPER RECREATION AREAS for the use of our children as well as ourselves are a major concern of your Council. The Jewish Children's Home property at 534 Clinton Avenue is currently just about the only large site which can be developed into a suitable recreation area. Just picture what it might become if improved with play areas, attractive landscaping and proper supervision by trained personnel!!!

MANY RESIDENTS of the surrounding streets, as well as your Neighborhood Council have approached city officials on the possibility of turning this now vacant land into a park and play area for this crowded section of our city and, as yet, there has been no action taken. Won't you help us to make this hope a reality?

OUR ALLIES

WE ARE NOT ALONE in our efforts toward a better Newark. In addition to the Federal Government, with its FHA program, we have also The Associated Community Councils; The City of Newark; The Commission on Neighborhood Conservation and Rehabilitation headed by Agnes Coleman; The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. Mr. Robert Hoover of the City Planning Commission and many more.

ALSO, many large companies who also have a stake in Newark's future, are also with us. The Mutual Benefit and Prudential Insurance Companies are assigning some of their top men to the problem, and offers of advice and help have come from the New Jersey Society of Architects, the Builders' and Real Estate Board and others.

PERHAPS, IN SOME SENSE, we may regard these as the "artillery" in the battle for a finer, cleaner, and happier Newark. But we are the "infantry"—and without us the battle is lost before it starts.

A REMINDER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, at 8 P. M. at the Hopewell Baptist Church, Clinton Avenue and Wernmouth Street, The Rev. C. E. STEELE will give a firsthand account of the Ballshades, Florida movement against segregated buses. This is a most timely subject.

IN A NEW COMMUNITY TODAY, planners are making certain to provide necessary parking lots, adequate streets, and the like to handle the tremendous volume of traffic on the roads today and anticipated in the future.

NEWARK IS AN OLD CITY, most of it laid out before the auto was such more than a dangerous nuisance to Grandpa, with his horse and buggy. There isn't much we can do about using vacant land, simply because there isn't any vacant land left. But we can be more intelligent in the use of the land we do have. Many of our streets can and should be made one-way to speed traffic movement. Others might be closed entirely to provide parking areas and playgrounds. Perhaps also some outmoded buildings should be pulled down to provide additional land area. Look around your immediate neighborhood to see if you can arrive at a solution—your suggestions will be appreciated.

BLOCK ASSOCIATIONS

WE NOW HAVE ASSOCIATIONS which are working with your Neighborhood Council on many streets such as Stanley, Seymour, and Farley Avenues. These are the "grass roots" organizations of which we need many more if we are to do the job before us.

WRITE YOUR COUNCILMAN

A GOOD CITIZEN is supposed to express his views to his Senator and Representative in Congress. Certainly, the same holds true on the municipal level. If you see something which is being neglected by the city on your street, write your councilman and your mayor. A U. S. Senator is definitely moved if sufficient numbers of his constituents voice opinions. Maybe you have sought action from the city on some problem but without results. If so, why not enlist your neighbors? A snowflake is rather insignificant, but a good hard snowball, made of many flakes, packs quite a wallop!

EXECUTIVE BOARD: Next Meeting, Tuesday, February 19th, at Clinton Branch Library, 739 Bergen St., 8:15 P. M., ALL ARE WELCOME!

JOIN AND ACTIVELY SUPPORT YOUR CLINTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL!